Creation of economic zones for NRIs

989. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 453 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the view points of the various State Governments have been elicited in regard to creation of economic zones for NRIs and if so, their reaction thereto; and

(b) the package of incentives and concessions proposed to be offered to the NRIs for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The idea of Special Economic Zones for NRIs is still in a very initial stage of consideration.

SC/ST/OBC in Government services

†990. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Group 'A' 'B' and 'C' category in Government services;

(b) whether the number of persons belonging to the reserved category is low on the basis of Constitution; and

(c) if so, whether Government would launch a special drive to fill the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes in Group A, Group B and Group C posts and services of the Government of India as on 1.1.2003 is 10256, 26040 and 345718 respectively. The number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in these posts and services as on 1.1.2003 is 3593, 7863 and 138685 respectively. Information regarding the number of Other Backward Classes in services has not been Centrally maintained.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.